

REMARKS

Applicant request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-19, 21-25 and 32-36 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 18, 21, 24, 25, 34 and 36 are independent. Claims 33-36 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.


For the reasons set forth in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on August 7, 2003, Applicant submits that the present invention is patentably defined by claims 1, 3-19, 21-25 and 32. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicant submits that the present invention is patentably defined by now claims 33-36. In particular, Claim 33 recites patentable features in addition to those recited in independent claim 1, from which it depends. Further, claims 34-36 patentably define features of the exposure apparatus and the exposure method of the present invention. In this regard, Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest the arrangement of the first, second and third housing in the exposure apparatus of the present invention recited in claims 34 and 35, and does not teach or suggest the master transferring steps or the illumination step of the exposure method recited in independent Claim 36. Therefore, those claims likewise should be allowable.

For the reasons noted above, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in claims 1, 3-19, 21-25 and 32-36, should be deemed allowable over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Applicant requests, therefore, favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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